

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated March 15, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 8-14, 29, 31, 32, 34 and 36-39 are pending. Claims 5, 7, 15, 17-28, 33, 35, 42 and 44-52 have been canceled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 6, 29 and 34 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 29 are in independent form.


Initially, Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 7 and 35 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim. Those claims have been so rewritten: that is, independent Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 7 and intervening Claim 5, and independent Claim 29 has been amended to include the features of Claim 35 and intervening Claim 33. Since all of the non-elected claims have been canceled, and all of the other claims presented for examination depend from independent Claim 1 or 29, all of the pending claims are believed to be allowable.

Applicants submit that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not presented earlier, because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and prompt passage to issue of the application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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